



RESERVE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

November 2006

The Proud, The Prepared, The First

Issue LXVIII



This is the sixty-eighth issue of the electronic newsletter from the First District Office. This newsletter is intended to inform all members of the Coast Guard team throughout the District on reserve program issues. Current distribution of this newsletter is to major unit COs/XOs and senior reservists, and to reservists and selected active duty members of the First District staff. Please forward this newsletter throughout your organization by such means as e-mail, posting copies, or mailing copies to reservists at home. This newsletter shares information on the reserve program district-wide. We welcome input and news from field activities. Please note that the information in this newsletter is unofficial. Check references before taking any action based solely on information contained in the newsletter.

From the Desk of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reserve Affairs



Do your ASQ!

Do it today.

All of us are required by statute to complete the Annual Screening Questionnaire. Among other things it advises the Coast Guard how much of its Ready Reserve is ready. Or at least willing. It also serves to remind all of

us of our obligation to prepare for mobilization.

Master Chief Bill Dikun and I have been making the rounds of Sector all-hands drills during October preaching the gospel of readiness. I was at the Sector Boston all hands a couple of weeks ago, and I asked the assembled crowd--there were 100+ in the audience--for a show of hands from anyone who had NOT completed the ASQ. Believe it or not, a dozen or so hands went up. This was three weeks into the month in which we're all supposed to do the ASQ. Particularly disappointing was that

some of these people were old shipmates of mine from when I was SRO at Group Boston ten years ago. Maybe they were just pulling an old shipmate's leg. Or maybe they were trying to pop my aorta. Everybody do your ASQ, ok?

All of the Sectors have implemented "readiness weekends" at these all-hands drills. These are intended to knock off all of the individual readiness factors: dental, physical, ASQ, and weigh-in. Sectors New York, Boston, Northern New England, and Southeastern New England held theirs in October, while Sector Long Island Sound has theirs scheduled in January.

These readiness weekends have contributed to a significant improvement in D1's individual readiness statistics over the last year. A year ago we had barely 70% compliance on average in these areas. Today we have nearly 85%, and we compare very well to the other districts.

We are having trouble breaking above that 85% ceiling, though. This is partly due to roughly 15% of our SELRES force not

completing their drill and AT obligations. I mentioned in last month's column that we were working on a solution to this, and I'm happy to report progress. This month we stood up the D1 Admin Strike Team. The strike team is made up of four SELRES administrative professionals: a CWO4 (PERS), two YNCs, and an SK1. They are now in the process of contacting the Sector Commanders to assist in executing the process prescribed in the Reserve Policy Manual for contacting non-participants and bringing them back aboard, or, failing that, separating them from the service. This effort may leave us with a slightly smaller force, but it will be a more committed force and a force more ready to perform its mission.

There are a number of other readiness initiatives under way. On 4-5 November the Reserve Senior Leadership Conference (your SRO's and Reserve Command Chiefs) will convene in Boston to discuss them and to generate a district-wide strategy for implementation. Look for further word on this in message traffic in the near future.

In the meantime, do your ASQ.

- Captain Frank Mullen

Scheduled Requirements

Due in November
Performance evaluations of E-8 members.

Review of BAQ, SGLI, Emergency Data.

Solicitation for Waesche Award

ALCOAST 529/06
COMDTNOTE 1650
31 October 2006
Applications are now being accepted for the 2006 Admiral Russell R. Waesche Award.

This award, sponsored by the Reserve Officers Association, recognizes the District and supporting ISC(s) that exemplify the emphasis on readiness that Admiral Waesche demonstrated as Commandant when he established the Coast Guard Reserve during World War II.

District Commanders will be submitting nominations to CG Headquarters by 15 December.

MCPO-CGRF

ALCOAST 500/06
COMDTNOTE 5725
12 October 2006

The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Force [(MCPO-CGRF) Jeffrey Smith] now reports directly to the Commandant as an advisor on, and advocate for, the men and women of the Coast Guard Reserve.

The MCPO-CGRF, in partnership with his active duty counterpart (MCPO-CG Charles Bowen) and the Commandant, will work to ensure that our military workforce, active and reserve, is a single team always ready to meet all threats and all hazards in the maritime domain.

Special Raise

In addition to the January 2007 pay raise (expected to be 2.2%), on 1 April 2007, warrant officers and some middle-grade enlisted will get a second basic pay raise, the latest in series of adjustments to keep the pay table competitive.

Warrant officers raises will range from 0.8 percent to 8.3 percent, depending on grade and years of service.

Enlisted grades E-5 with 8 or more years of service, and E-6 and E-7 grades with 12 years or more service will see

April raises of 1.2 percent to 2.5 percent.

Tricare Fees, Co-pays

Pentagon plans to impose higher Tricare fees and co-payments on military retirees under age 62 are blocked for at least a year.

The House and Senate also scrapped, for now, their own plans to adjust retail and mail order drug co-payments.

Government auditors are to study these issues and report back to Congress by June next year.

Reserve Tricare Expanded

Any drilling Reservist or National Guard member will be eligible to enroll in a premium-based Tricare benefit by 1 October 2007.

Premiums will be set at 28 percent of plan costs. This will repeal the three-tiered, cost-sharing program for reserve components that Congress approved only last year.

The Defense Department made Tier 2 and Tier 3 coverage available only this month.

Those who enroll will pay higher premiums until Tier 1 becomes available to all next fall.

Information on Tricare benefits is available at www.tricare.osd.mil

Debt Protection

Money lenders will be prohibited from charging military members and their families more than 36 percent interest on consumer loans.

The law also will set strict guidelines on disclosure of loan information and prohibits automatic loan renewals, refinancing or consolidation without new documents and disclosure.

Penalties for violators will include fines and imprisonment.

All changes will take effect by next fall.

Congress intends to reassess after a year to make sure lenders still are making short-term loans available to military personnel.

ESGR Recognizes Massachusetts

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been selected as one of 15 recipients of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The award recognizes public and private employers for going above and beyond what is required by the Uniformed Services

Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve manages the award.

The Commonwealth offers free tuition for Guardsmen and Reservists attending state colleges and universities. And, waives all associated fees.

A death benefit of \$100,000 is provided to family members.

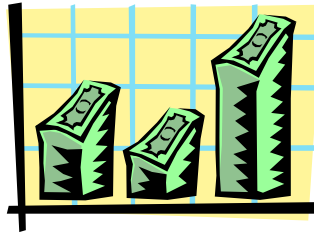
The state pays half of the monthly SGLI premiums paid by reserve-component personnel.

Other benefits offered by Massachusetts include a check-off box on state tax forms to make a donation to a non-profit organization called Friends of the Guard and Reserve, an increase in per diem for those called to state active duty, an increased benefit for Gold Star parents, and a new benefit for Gold Star spouses.

Additionally, Massachusetts service members serving on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan since 11 September 2001 are entitled to a \$1,000 bonus. Those serving

at least six months on active duty in other locations receive a \$500 bonus.

TSP Ticker



All Thrift Savings Plan funds increased in October.

October 2006

C	+3.27%
F	+0.73%
G	+0.43%
I	+3.87%
S	+4.99%

Last 12 Months

C	+16.32%
F	+5.22%
G	+4.97%
I	+27.54%
S	+16.93%

October 2006

L 2040	+3.28%
L 2030	+2.94%
L 2020	+2.51%
L 2010	+1.79%
L Income	+1.04%

Last 12 Months

L 2040	+17.41%
L 2030	+15.91%
L 2020	+14.36%
L 2010	+11.71%
L Income	+7.80%

TSP Fund Balances

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) keeps getting bigger. More federal employees, more

military members and more retirees have more money in the TSP than ever before. The total value of funds in the TSP is \$186.3 billion. A breakdown by fund:

G	\$70.0B
C	\$65.3B
I	\$15.4B
S	\$13.7B
F	\$ 9.6B

L Funds

L2020	\$ 4.8B
L2010	\$ 3.2B
L2030	\$ 2.3B
L2040	\$ 1.2B
L Income	\$ 749M

Closing Quote

"Adding a National Guard General to the Joint Chiefs of Staff would be divisive. What we want is integration, not segregation by virtue of a new system."

General James Jones, former Marine Corps Commandant, testifying against congressional efforts to increase the National Guard's influence in the Pentagon.

(5 October 2006)

**KEEP UP THE
GOOD WORK!**

Editor/Publisher:
Joseph R. McGonagle,
YNC, USCGR
jmcgonagle@d1.uscg.mil